

NOTE ON *HELIX SCYTODES*, PFR.

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RECENTLY, while working at some of the land shells in the collection of the British Museum, I noticed two specimens of a helicoid which I had not seen before, viz. *Helix scytodes*, Pfr.,<sup>1</sup> from the Solomon Islands. These were the type-specimens in the Cuming Collection. I was immediately struck with their resemblance to two unnamed shells which were acquired by me some years ago with various other shells at an auction sale, and actual comparison of the specimens confirmed their identity.

The species was referred to *Trochomorpha* by Pfeiffer<sup>2</sup> and by Pilsbry,<sup>3</sup> but a careful examination of the shell convinced me that it would more correctly be assigned to the genus *Plectotropis*, the reflected outer and basal margins of the peristome, especially, being a feature which would at once remove it from *Trochomorpha*. Both the type shells in the Cuming Collection, and those in my own, are devoid of the periostracum and do not, consequently, show the scales which are so characteristic of the genus *Plectotropis*, but traces of them can be seen inside the umbilicus. The shell bears a general resemblance to such species as *P. winteriana*, Pfr., *P. tapeina*, Bens., and *P. squarrosa*, Gld.

No species of the genus *Plectotropis*, it is true, has been recorded from the Solomon Islands, but Cuming is well known to have been unreliable with his localities, and this may well be another instance of a wrong habitat.

The species has been well figured by Reeve,<sup>4</sup> whose figure has been copied by Tryon.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc., 1854, p. 56.

<sup>2</sup> Malak. Blatt., ii, 1855, p. 133.

<sup>3</sup> Man. Conch., ser. II, ix, 1894, p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> Conch. Icon., vol. vii, 1854, pl. 188, fig. 1310.

<sup>5</sup> Man. Conch., ser. II, vol. iii, 1887, p. 77, pl. xiv, fig. 20.